

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

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## STEADY GROWTH IN WELLBEING OF WORKING PEOPLE IN COUNTRIES OF DEMOCRATIC CAMP

On enormous expanses of the earth, from the heart of Europe to the shores of the Pacific, there live and work the peoples of the countries who have broken free from capitalist slavery and who have been given the opportunity to build their lives on new, socialist lines. The peoples of these lands, comprising one-third of mankind, have combined in one mighty camp of peace, democracy and Socialism headed by the great Socialist Power—the Soviet Union.

The supreme law in the Soviet Union is care for man, the maximum satisfaction of the constantly growing material and cultural requirements of the population. The Communist Party and the Government of the Soviet Union direct the efforts of the working people of the country to the development of a peaceful socialist economy, to economic and cultural upbuilding, to advancing in every way the wellbeing of the popular masses. The Soviet people are building and extending industrial enterprises, power stations, new railways; they are consolidating the collective farms, equipping agriculture with the most up-to-date technique, bringing under cultivation vast tracts of virgin soil and unused land in order to ensure a better and better life for the workers, collective farmers and intelligentsia, so that the material wellbeing and cultural level of the people are raised day by day, year by year.

A striking illustration of this is the seventh successive, in recent years, substantial reduction in prices for food and manufactured goods that took place in the Soviet Union on April 1. This reduction will promote the further growth of the wellbeing of the working people, increase the purchasing power of the rouble and the budgeting power of every family will feel its favourable effect. As a result of the price reduction the population will gain directly in the space of one year not less than 20,000 million roubles from state and co-operative trade alone, to say nothing of the supplementary advantages from the fall in prices on the collective-farm market.

The consistent reduction in the retail prices for manufactured goods and food takes place in the USSR on the basis of the powerful advance of all branches of the national economy, the steady growth of labour productivity and lowering of production costs. It is sufficient to say that from 1949 to 1953 industrial output in the Soviet Union increased 1.8 times; in 1953 the national income had more than doubled compared with pre-war.

war occupied one of the last places in Europe for volume of industrial production, has now outstripped Italy; its average output per capita is almost as great as that of France.

In the People's Democracies there are no longer unemployed people in the towns and "superfluous" people in the countryside. About three quarters of the rapidly growing national income goes to satisfy the material and cultural requirements of the working people.

All this yields real fruit. During 9 months in Hungary one general reduction in prices was effected and one reduction covering a lesser range of goods. Just recently the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic again reduced prices for fats and meat—a reduction which will benefit the population to the amount of 500 million forints in the course of one year. The other day the fourth successive price reduction in the past two years took place in Bulgaria; the reduction in the price of bread alone benefits the working people to the amount of 116 million leva and from the reduction in cotton fabrics they will benefit to the extent of 189 million leva. The price reduction as a whole will benefit the people to the amount of over 970 million leva. In Czechoslovakia, too, state retail prices for consumption goods have been reduced. The reduction affects 53 thousand items and will benefit the population to the amount of 5,600 million crowns in one year.

The systematic reduction in prices for mass-consumption goods in the countries of the democratic camp is not some kind of a temporary, transient measure, it is one of the basic elements of their entire economic policy. The Communist and Workers' Parties and the Governments in these countries, basing themselves on the level of industrial production already achieved, have planned and are carrying out the plans for achieving a rapid advance in the wellbeing of the working people. These plans provide for accelerated development of agriculture, of light industry and the food industry, for still greater construction of dwelling houses and for cultural upbuilding.

The achievements of the countries of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism stand out particularly clearly against the background of what is taking place in the capitalist world. In Britain, for example, the price of bread has gone up 25 per cent since October 1951, the price of butter has risen 46.6 per cent, meat 57 per cent, cheese 200 per cent; the price of clothes and rent have gone up; consumption of sugar, meat and of a number of other items has fallen greatly compared with pre-war. In the past years

## ANOTHER REDUCTION in State Retail Prices for Food and Manufactured Goods in USSR

On April 1 "Pravda" and other newspapers in the USSR published a decree by the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union about another reduction in state retail prices for food and manufactured goods. The decree reads:

The Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union have decreed:

1. As of April 1, 1954 to reduce state retail prices for food and manufactured goods as follows:

**Bread, flour and macaroni goods:** Rye bread—8 per cent; wheat bread, rolls, cracknels and other bakery items—5 per cent; rye, wheat, maize and other kinds of flour—5 per cent; soya flour—15 per cent; macaroni, vermicelli, noodles and other macaroni items—5 per cent.

**Grains and fodder:** Rye—8 per cent; wheat, oats, barley and other grains, bran, oil-cake and combined fodder, hay and straw—on the average 5 per cent.

**Groceries:** Tea—10 per cent; coffee, cocoa and prepared coffee, tea and cocoa—on the average 15 per cent; coarse salt—10 per cent; fine salt—20 per cent.

**Fabrics:** Batiste, marquise, voile and other summer-wear cotton fabrics and cotton furnishing fabrics—on the average 20 per cent; cotton and rayon fabrics—10 per cent; cotton prints, sateen and other cotton fabrics—on the average 15 per cent; pure silk fabrics—on the average 10 per cent.

**Ready-made clothing, knitted goods and headwear:** summer cotton dresses, blouses, and other cotton articles—on the average 15 per cent; dresses, blouses, underwear and other items made of other cotton fabrics—on the average 10 per cent; pure silk dresses, blouses, underwear and other silk items—on the average 7 per cent; knitted goods—on the average 8 per cent; cotton socks and stockings—on the average 20 per cent; socks and stockings made of silk, etc.—on the average 10 per cent; "capron" stockings—on the average 25 per cent; headwear made of cotton, silk, semi-woollen and coarse woollen fabrics—10 per cent; straw hats—10 per cent.

**Footwear:** leather footwear—on the aver-

**Soap, perfumes and cosmetics:** laundry soap—on the average 15 per cent; toilet soap—on the average 20 per cent; perfumes, eau de cologne and other perfumery and cosmetics—on the average 10 per cent.

**Goods for cultural requirements and toys:** writing paper, exercise books, and other paper and cardboard articles—on the average 10 per cent; pencils, nibs, penholders and other writing and drawing and office accessories—15 per cent; rubber, celluloid, metal and other toys, fir-tree decorations—on the average 15 per cent; cameras—on the average 10 per cent; photographic paper, plates and other photographic material—15 per cent; radio valves—on the average 15 per cent.

**Porcelain, china and glass goods:** porcelain and china goods—on the average 15 per cent; glass and crystalware, lamps and mirrors—on the average 10 per cent.

**Household goods:** electric bulbs, domestic electrical appliances, washing machines and vacuum cleaners—10 per cent; saws, drills, blacksmith's, fitter's, carpenter's and other tools—on the average 20 per cent; metal beds—15 per cent; hardware goods and locks—on the average 10 per cent; pitchforks, scythes, sickles—20 per cent; cutlery—on the average 15 per cent; metal lamps and lanterns—20 per cent; feather and down goods—10 per cent.

**Building materials:** slate—10 per cent; felt roofing—20 per cent; plywood—15 per cent; cement—20 per cent; lacquers, paints and chemicals for household use—on the average 10 per cent; sanitary equipment—10 per cent; wall-paper—20 per cent; hot-house frames—30 per cent.

**Matches and oil products:** matches—20 per cent; petrol and lubricating oils—44.5 per cent; lamp oil—38 per cent.

**Sports and other manufactured goods:** bladders for sports balls—10 per cent; skates for racing and figure-skating—15 per cent; "Snegurochka", "Sport" and other skates—5 per cent; skis and accessories—10 per cent; hunting and fishing tackle—on the average 10 per cent; plastic articles—10 per cent.

**Medicaments and sanitary and hygiene goods:** medicaments and other sanitary and hygiene articles—on the average 15

## Statement by Soviet Government Concerning Relations Between Soviet Union and German Democratic Republic

The Government of the Soviet Union is invariably guided by the striving to contribute to the settlement of the German problem in conformity with the interests of strengthening peace and ensuring the national reunification of Germany on a democratic basis.

The carrying out of practical measures for bringing closer together Eastern and Western Germany, for free all-German elections and the signing of a Peace Treaty with Germany must serve these aims.

Despite the efforts of the Soviet Union, at the recent Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the four Powers in Berlin no steps whatever have been taken for restoring the national unity of Germany and signing a Peace Treaty.

In view of this situation and as a result of negotiations between the Soviet Government and the Government of the German Democratic Republic, the Government of the USSR deems it necessary to take, right-away, prior to unification of Germany and signing a Peace Treaty, further steps towards meeting the interests of the German people, namely:

1. The Soviet Union puts its relations with the German Democratic Republic on the same footing as with other sovereign states.

The German Democratic Republic shall freely decide, at its own discretion, its internal and external affairs, including questions of relations with Western Germany.

2. The Soviet Union will retain in the German Democratic Republic functions connected with ensuring security, arising from the obligations assumed by the USSR in accordance with the four-Power agreements.

The Soviet Government has taken into consideration the declaration of the Government of the German Democratic Republic to the effect that it will observe the obligations devolving on the German Democratic Republic from the Potsdam Agreement concerning the development of Germany as a democratic and peace-loving state, and also the obligations connected with the temporary stay of Soviet troops on the territory of the GDR.

3. The supervision of the state organs of the German Democratic Republic, previously exercised by the USSR High Commissioner in Germany, is annulled.

In keeping with this the functions of the USSR High Commissioner in Germany shall be restricted to questions affecting the above-mentioned matter of ensuring security and of maintaining the corresponding contact with the representatives of the Occupation Authorities of the USA, Britain and France concerning questions of an all-German character arising from the agreed four-Power decisions in relation to Germany.

The Government of the USSR considers that the "Occupation Statute" established for Western Germany by the USA, Britain and France is not only incompatible with the democratic principles and national rights of the German people, but as things are at present, hampers the bringing closer together of Western and Eastern Germany and is one of the chief obstacles in the way of the national reunification of Germany.

## Appeal of Bureau of World Peace Council to Peoples of Europe

A session of the Bureau of the World Peace Council was held in Vienna on March 28-30. The Bureau adopted the following documents: 1. Resolution of the Bureau of the World Peace Council. 2. Appeal to the Peoples of Europe. 3. Declaration of the Bureau of the World Peace Council on Atomic Weapons.

The Appeal to the Peoples of Europe reads:

The Berlin Conference has proved that the desire to impose the "European Defence

The peoples of Europe, who have experienced the terrible sufferings brought about by the two world wars which had their beginning in Europe, must be fully conscious of their common responsibility for preserving peace in the world.

It is not true that for the peoples of Europe there is but one road—the road of division and war. Another road is open to them, the road of organising collective security between all the states of Europe.

A striking illustration of this is the seventh successive, in recent years, substantial reduction in prices for food and manufactured goods that took place in the Soviet Union on April 1. This reduction will promote the further growth of the wellbeing of the working people, increase the purchasing power of the rouble and the budget effect. As a result of the price reduction the population will gain directly in the space of one year not less than 20,000 million roubles from state and co-operative trade alone, to say nothing of the supplementary advantages from the fall in prices on the collective-farm market.

The consistent reduction in the retail prices for manufactured goods and food takes place in the USSR on the basis of the powerful advance of all branches of the national economy, the steady growth of labour productivity and lowering of production costs. It is sufficient to say that from 1949 to 1953 industrial output in the Soviet Union increased 1.8 times; in 1953 the national income had more than doubled compared with pre-war.

The peoples of the Soviet Union face the future with confidence; there is a still more joyous and happy life before them. Of late the Communist Party and the Government of the Soviet Union have been carrying out a number of important measures for securing a sharp upsurge in the output of mighty development of agriculture, measures designed to ensure a sufficiency and, subsequently, an abundance of foods and raw materials for light industry and the food industry. With every fresh success in Communist construction the life of the Soviet people will become richer and more beautiful. Their growing material and cultural needs will receive still fuller and better satisfaction.

Big changes have already taken place and are taking place now in People's China. Guided by their glorious Communist Party, the Chinese people have thrown off the heavy yoke of feudal and imperialist domination, and have firmly stepped out along the road of social transformations. The task of the first year of the Five-Year Plan has been successfully fulfilled, the plan that will lay the foundation for the industrialisation of the country, strengthen its defence capacity and create a solid base for the further raising of the standard of living. Everyday concern for improving the conditions of the millionfold masses in China has become the law of development in the People's Republic of China.

Year by year social production is growing, and the wellbeing of the working people in the people's-democratic countries of Europe advances. In less than one decade the countries of people's democracy, relying on the selfless help of the Soviet Union, have forever eliminated their economic backwardness. The volume of industrial production in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania is now more than three times the pre-war level. Poland, for example, which prior to the second world

## Meeting of Central Committee, Communist Party of Czechoslovakia

The meeting of the C.C. of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia held on March 29 discussed the draft decree of the Party and the Government concerning the third reduction in state retail prices for consumer goods and public services.

A report dealing with the price reduction and the implementation of the decisions of the September meeting of the C.C. of the Party was delivered by Comrade Viliam Siroky who put forward, as necessary prerequisites for the continued steady rise in the living standard of the working people of Czechoslovakia, the

benefit the population to the amount of 5,600 million crowns in one year.

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The achievements of the countries of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism stand out particularly clearly against the background of what is taking place in the capitalist world. In Britain, for example, the price of bread has gone up 25 per cent since October 1951, the price of butter has risen 46.6 per cent, meat 57 per cent, cheese 200 per cent; the price of clothes and rent have gone up; consumption of sugar, meat and of a number of other items has fallen greatly compared with pre-war. In the past years in France the price of food and manufactured goods rose still higher. In the USA, to take the official figures, the cost of living rose 13 per cent during three years of the war in Korea. Nearly 70 per cent of the working people in Western Germany are below the subsistence minimum. Cost of living is rising rapidly in Spain, Yugoslavia, Turkey and Greece. Imperialism dooms to semi-starvation and hunger hundreds of millions of people in the colonial and dependent countries.

The signs of the oncoming economic crisis are becoming more and more pronounced in the capitalist world. Millions of unemployed cannot find jobs and go hungry. Branches of industry producing for peace needs are being curtailed. For the purpose of ensuring for themselves maximum profits the monopolists, through the docile governments, are squeezing still tighter the tax pincers and are going ahead with the militarisation of the economy. In a recent radio address President Eisenhower admitted that military expenditure takes 70 cents of every dollar spent by the US Government.

Millions of working people in the capitalist countries follow, with feelings of joy, the successes of the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy. The working people of the world see for themselves that these countries are effecting an advance in the wellbeing of the people that is simply unthinkable in the bourgeois countries.

By means of its economic policy the Soviet Union is exerting a tremendous influence on the development of international events. The steady rise in the material and cultural level of the working people in the Soviet Union helps the popular masses in all countries to appreciate more fully the immense superiority of the socialist system over the capitalist system, inspires them to fight against imperialist reaction, for peace and friendship between the peoples.

following tasks: more vigorous measures to ensure a substantial upsurge in agricultural production, regular fulfilment of the national-economic plan, consistent observance of a regime of economy in industrial enterprises, developing foreign and home trade, raising the level of the Party leadership of the national economy.

The Central Committee approved the proposals of the Presidium of the C.C. of the Party for reducing retail prices and adopted Comrade Siroky's report as a directive for the further work of the Party and the Government.

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**Footwear:** leather footwear—on the average 7 per cent; footwear made of fabrics and combined footwear—on the average 20 per cent; overshoes, high overshoes, rubber boots and other rubber footwear—on the average 12 per cent.

**Haberdashery:** textile haberdashery—on the average 10 per cent; thread—on the average 15 per cent; lamp shades—on the average 10 per cent; cotton wool and fleecy interlining—15 per cent; needles for sewing machines, for hand sewing and other needles—20 per cent; articles of jewellery—on the average 10 per cent.

blacksmiths, hatters, carpenters and other tools—on the average 20 per cent; metal beds—15 per cent; hardware goods and locks—on the average 10 per cent; pitch-forks, scythes, sickles—20 per cent; cutlery—on the average 15 per cent; metal lamps and lanterns—20 per cent; feather and down goods—10 per cent.

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**Medicaments and sanitary and hygiene goods:** medicaments and other sanitary and hygiene articles—on the average 15 per cent; sanitary and hygiene rubber articles—on the average 10 per cent.

2. To reduce accordingly prices in restaurants, dining and other catering establishments.

3. To effect reciprocal sale of grain and oil-cake during procurement of raw cotton, silk cocoons, kenaf products, flax fibre, hemp, for which favourable prices are paid—at the retail price with a 10 per cent discount.

## FOURTH CONGRESS OF SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY

The Fourth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany began its work on March 30 in Berlin.

By 9 a. m. about 5,000 delegates and guests filled the spacious and well-decorated Werner Seelenbinder sports hall. All sections of the working people—workers, peasants, scientists, workers in the realm of literature and art and technicians—were represented.

The appearance of Wilhelm Pieck and Otto Grotewohl—Chairmen of the C.C. of the Party, Walter Ulbricht, first Secretary of the Central Committee, members of the Political Bureau and of the delegation from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union—A. I. Mikoyan, member of the Presidium of the C.C. of the CPSU and Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and M. A. Suslov, Secretary of the C.C. of the CPSU—was greeted with tumultuous applause.

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Party Comrade Pieck declared the Fourth Congress open. He suggested that the Congress rise in homage to J. V. Stalin and prominent fighters of the working-class movement of Germany who passed away in recent years. The delegates rose and there was silence in the hall.

In his opening speech W. Pieck pointed out that as was shown by the Berlin Conference of Foreign Ministers the peaceful settlement of the German problem was first of all the affair of the Germans themselves. In view of the fact that the Soviet Government has established with the German Democratic Republic the same relations as with other sovereign states, Comrade Pieck said, the role of the Republic as a base for an all-German popular movement for national unity and a democratic peace treaty has become greater.

Now, W. Pieck went on to say, it is becoming clearer than ever that the agreement on the "European Defence Community",

according to which Western Germany is to be militarised and brought under foreign bondage, is the main hindrance to reuniting Germany on a peaceful and democratic basis. It is a menace to peace in Europe, a menace which can most effectively be removed by concluding a General European Treaty on Collective Security.

W. Pieck, greeting the representatives from 24 fraternal parties present at the Congress, with special warmth addressed the delegation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union headed by Comrade A. I. Mikoyan.

On behalf of the German working class and all Germans conscious of their national duty, said Wilhelm Pieck, we thank the C.C. of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Government for the consistent defence of the national interests of the German people at the four-Power Conference and particularly for the full recognition of the sovereignty of the German Democratic Republic.

The Congress applauded when Comrade Pieck called on the delegates to intensify the fight for unity and peace in Germany and strengthen and consolidate the worker-peasant rule in the German Democratic Republic.

Members of the Political Bureau of the SUPG led by Comrades Pieck, Grotewohl and Ulbricht, leaders of local Party organisations, advanced workers, heroes of labour, National Prize winners and prominent figures in the realm of culture were unanimously elected to the Presidium.

Comrade Pieck suggested inviting to the Presidium members of the delegations from the fraternal Parties. The Congress wholeheartedly applauded at the appearance on the rostrum of members of the delegation of the CPSU—A. I. Mikoyan, M. A. Suslov, D. T. Shepilov, A. A. Smirnov; the representative of the Chinese Communist Party—Tsei Ping-fei, Chinese Ambassador to the German Democratic Republic and represen-

3. The supervision of the state organs of the German Democratic Republic, previously exercised by the USSR High Commissioner in Germany, is annulled.

In keeping with this the functions of the USSR High Commissioner in Germany shall be restricted to questions affecting the above-mentioned matter of ensuring security and of maintaining the corresponding contact with the representatives of the Occupation Authorities of the USA, Britain and France concerning questions of an all-German character arising from the agreed four-Power decisions in relation to Germany.

The Government of the USSR considers that the "Occupation Statute" established for Western Germany by the USA, Britain and France is not only incompatible with the democratic principles and national rights of the German people, but as things are at present, hampers the bringing closer together of Western and Eastern Germany and is one of the chief obstacles in the way of the national reunification of Germany.

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The Appeal to the Peoples of Europe reads:

The Berlin Conference has proved that the desire to impose the "European Defence Community" on the nations is the chief obstacle to the peaceful settlement of European issues.

The "European Defence Community" is a Europe doomed to division into two hostile camps and the continuation of accelerated rearmament.

The "European Defence Community" signifies the resurgence of German militarism in the heart of Europe.

The "European Defence Community" is a mortal danger for everyone living in Europe. There is the danger of the destruction of every home.

The peoples of Europe, who have experienced the terrible sufferings brought about by the two world wars which had their beginning in Europe, must be fully conscious of their common responsibility for preserving peace in the world.

It is not true that for the peoples of Europe there is but one road—the road of division and war. Another road is open to them, the road of organising collective security between all the states of Europe, without any one state dominating, in the spirit of respect for national independence and in consonance with their own aspirations, in the spirit of a general reduction of armaments.

Despite different political and social systems, all the countries of Europe have common interests—the preservation of peace for each of these countries and the development of economic and cultural co-operation. The duty of every man and woman in Europe today is clear: to inflict defeat on the "European Defence Community" and on war, to guarantee peace in Europe.

The morning session on March 31 opened the discussion on the reports. The session was attended by a delegation of peasant-members of producer co-operatives and individual working peasants which greeted the Congress and expressed the confidence of the working peasantry of the German Democratic Republic in the Party of the working class.

Discussion on the reports continued on April 1. Shortly after the opening of the morning session Comrade Schirdewan, the Chairman, gave the floor to the head of the CPSU delegation Comrade A. I. Mikoyan, member of the Presidium of the C.C., CPSU, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, who was warmly received by the Congress. Comrade Mikoyan pronounced the last words of his striking speech in the German language. All present rose in an ovation for the leader of the delegation of the CPSU. In conclusion, Comrade Mikoyan read the text of the message from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to the Fourth Congress of the SUPG.

The reading of the greetings from the C.C. of the Communist Party of China by Comrade Tsei Ping-fei was greeted with tempestuous and prolonged applause on the part of the delegates and guests.

Messages of greeting were received from the Korean Party of Labour, the Working People's Party of Viet Nam and the Communist Party of Japan. The Congress was then greeted by delegations from the working people in light industry and the food industry and trading workers.

Towards the end of the morning session the Congress listened with keen attention to the speech of greetings by Comrade Waldeck Rochet, leader of the delegation from the French Communist Party.

Discussion on the reports was continued at the evening session.

The Congress continues its work.

tatives from the Communist and Workers' Parties of the People's Democracies—F. Jozwiak-Witold (Poland), J. Duris (Czechoslovakia), M. Farkas (Hungary), P. Borila (Rumania), T. Zhivkov (Bulgaria), M. Prifti (Albania); Harry Pollitt, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Great Britain, J. Kopenig, Chairman of the Communist Party of Austria, E. D'Onofrio, representative of the Communist Party of Italy, and representatives of the Communist Parties of Greece, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and other countries. The appearance in the Presidium of the delegation of the French Communist Party led by Waldeck Rochet, member of the Political Bureau, was greeted with tumultuous applause.

The Congress elected the Credentials Commission, Editing Commission, Rules Commission and tellers.

The agenda of the Congress is as follows:

1. Report of the Central Committee, by Comrade Walter Ulbricht, first Secretary of the Central Committee.

Report of the Central Auditing Commission—Comrade Alfred Oelssner.

Report of the Central Control Commission—Comrade Hermann Matern.

2. Amendments to the Rules of the Party—Comrade Karl Schirdewan.

3. Election of central organs.

After the election of the Presidium and Commissions Comrade Otto Grotewohl called on Comrade Walter Ulbricht to give the report of the Central Committee.

Comrade W. Ulbricht's report was listened to with keen attention and was punctuated with prolonged applause. The Congress responded with a warm ovation when Ulbricht called for cheers in honour of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and its Central Committee.

At the evening session the Congress heard the reports of the Central Auditing Commission and Central Control Commission.

# AMERICAN AID WILL NOT SAVE FRANCOISM

With the signing of the US-Franco pact on September 26, 1953, which transforms Spain into an American strategic base, General Franco has crowned his betrayal of Spain, which he began with the military-fascist putsch in July 1936.

Even those clauses of the pact which have become known to the public are enough to brand the Franco Government with shame, signifying as they do the loss of Spain's sovereignty and independence, the Yankee interference in the entire political and economic life of the country and the handing over to a foreign power the secrets of national defence.

This pact, the signing of which was facilitated by the policy of the French and British rulers who want the Atlantic bloc to be strengthened by the admission of the fascist Franco, encroaches not only on the vital interests of Spain and the Spanish people, it also encroaches in no small measure on the security of France and Britain.

The fact that the rulers of these countries raised no objection to the signing of this pact vividly recalls the anti-democratic policy pursued by the Anglo-French ruling circles, by the Chamberlains and Blums just prior to the second world war, a policy favouring Hitler and inimical to the Spanish Republic, an unwise policy the tragic consequences of which are felt to this day.

Both during the national-revolutionary war of the Spanish people and after the defeat of the Republic and the establishment of fascism on the Iberian Peninsula, the Communist Party of Spain has ceaselessly exposed the provocative, adventurist and mercenary character of Francoism and pointed to the threat which this Hitler offshoot in the centre of the air and naval strategic communications of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean constituted for international security.

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The events in Morocco just before the Berlin Conference and the anti-British demonstrations in Spain demanding the transfer of Gibraltar to Franco, designed as pressure on France and Britain, confirm the venality of Franco and his Government, these barterers of the homeland, and show the role which American imperialism has assigned them.

There is nothing stranger than to see Franco, whose military career is black with crimes and acts of violence against the people of Morocco, now acting the role of champion of the liberties of the Moroccans, of their defender against the arbitrary rule of the French colonisers. He could not have done this four years ago. He can do so now since he feels the support of the American ruling circles.

Where did Franco become notorious as a man devoid of shame and conscience? Where did he make his military career? He did this in Morocco serving the monarchy which was greatly interested in the Riff ore deposits, since the king was a big shareholder in the company exploiting these deposits. Franco made his career in Morocco by devastating villages, burning settlements, killing the cattle and destroying the crops of the Moroccan peasants, by shooting the Riffs who had risen in rebellion against Spain; Franco spared neither women nor children. It was for these services that Alphonso XIII promoted him to the rank of general. Who can believe that the man of such "exploits" in Morocco, the man who devastated Spain, reducing it to ruins and ashes, who has left not even a trace of the democratic freedoms, who abolished the autonomy of Catalonia and the Basque country, who slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Spaniards fighting for freedom and who turned Spain into one huge prison, can, overnight, become the champion of freedom of the Moroccan people?

The manoeuvres of the Franco Government in relation to Gibraltar and

of the working people. Never before has Spain witnessed such a sharp contrast between the poverty of the majority of the population and the shameless luxury of the handful of capitalists and the new-rich Falangists.

But the crimes of the Francoites are coming home to roost. The shrinkage in the purchasing power of the people has led to a shrinkage of the market, and to reduced trading operations—to curtailment of production or to over-production, to paralysis of industry and trade.

This has resulted in the proletarianisation of big sections of the middle classes and in the bankruptcy of small traders and industrialists, developments which have prepared the ground for struggle against Francoism even among those sections which until now have been passive.

The strike of the Basque working people in 1947, with the entire Viscaya working class taking part, and the recent strikes in the industrial areas of the Basque country, the impressive action fought by the proletariat and the middle classes in Catalonia in the spring of 1951, and the struggle which took place in Navarra, Viscaya and Madrid after the events in Catalonia, show that the Franco regime is incapable of holding back the struggle of the masses, cannot maintain its rule by the terror which served this purpose heretofore. These actions, which struck heavy blows at Francoism, opened up new vistas for the development of the common struggle against the Franco dictatorship.

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Francoism is becoming an obstacle in the way of the right-wing forces which supported Franco in his crimes against the Republic. Conscious of this, he is trying to buttress his rule by bartering Spain's national independence and sovereignty. By signing the pact with the United States he wanted to strike at his adversaries for the purpose of playing to the gallery. But, as they say in Spain, not even the grace of God can save his regime.

A letter is now being circulated in Madrid which is supposed to have been written by a prominent leader of the former "Confederation of the Autonomous Right". The letter says that the Franco regime "is cracking and tottering, and the only thing to do is to await the inevitable collapse, to try and save what can be saved from the wreckage, within the framework of the regime, so that after clearing up the mess we shall be able to return to civilised political forms..."

The desertion of members from the Falange—fascist organisation on which Franco relies in carrying out his terrorist and anti-national policy—is taking place all the time. The report sent from Guipuzcoa to the Falange Congress held last autumn pointed out that of 14,272 members in the province "hardly more than 500 can be regarded as members in the full sense of the word". On the national scale, according to this report, "the Falange is split into almost as many groups, small and big, as it has members".

There is open talk about the transient character of the regime. The monarchists, silent when Franco was backed by Hitler, now stress the urgency of restoring the monarchy as a way out and a safety valve against a revolutionary upheaval.

In an article in the French journal "Ecrits de Paris", Calvo Serer, one of the prominent figures of the Franco regime, until recently professor in Madrid University, a leading monarchist, analysed the situation in Spain and the bitter struggle now being waged between the supporters and opponents of political change and reached the conclusion that change is necessary. As an effective means of securing them without

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**Dolores Ibarruri**  
General Secretary,  
Communist Party of Spain

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to wait for fair weather and, prudently, are beginning to modify their policy. At their autumn congress they waived 26 points of their fascist programme in order to draw up a more moderate one, to trim the sails of their imperial dreams and to hold on as long as they can.

There are, of course, groups of "pure" Falangists, who have made careers under the Franco regime and who are horrified at the bare idea of possible political changes depriving them of their positions. But their numbers are dwindling, and the growth of the political crisis of Francoism, which is being aggravated by the deepening of an economic crisis, will, in ever greater measure, further the disintegration of the fascist organisation and of the very regime itself.

A feature of the disintegration of the fascist movement in Spain is the attitude of the youth to the Falange.

The leaders of the Falange are forced to acknowledge that young people are hostile to their organisations. And while this is true in general of the youth forced into the fascist organisations, among the student youth, which is more subject to Falangist influence, this recalcitrance at times finds most surprising expression.

For example, the demonstrations organised by the Falange leaders in connection with the proposed visit of the Queen of England to Gibraltar showed that the students not only broke loose from Falange control, they actually turned their backs on the Falange—and this was the same youth from which Spanish fascism recruited its first units, its first shock groups. The student demonstrations in Madrid, directed initially against Britain, rapidly turned into political demonstrations against the Falange, the Falange ministers, virtually, against the Government. The student demonstration in the middle of March in Seville were also of an open anti-fascist character.

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Being responsible for the ruin of the country, for the poverty of millions of people, for the affront to the national dignity of Spain, Francoism has attempted to deny its guilt, justifying its policy and the impoverishment of the country by the isolation to which it was doomed.

Nor have the conditions of the people improved since the USA and Great Britain, in violation of the Potsdam decisions, gave their support in Uno to the fascist regime in Spain and began rendering aid to the Franco Government on a wide scale.

The impoverishment of the masses continues to grow. The US-Franco pact, by means of which Franco hoped to strengthen his regime, is beginning to yield results, but they are the opposite of those anticipated by the dictator. The pact has given birth to hostility and mistrust even among capitalists who are conscious of the menace of American intervention in the economic life of Spain.

Spanish industrialists who have been offered dollars for modernising their plants refuse to accept them, since the terms accompanying the offer are such that they can be accepted only by those enterprises which are obliged to make purchases in the USA.

An industrialist desirous of getting credits must not only pay their equivalent in pesetas, he has to supply the Americans with most detailed information on the state of his enterprises, which in ordinary language means naked industrial espionage.

In this way Spanish industrialists are

against this policy. There are the people, the working masses, and they will have the decisive say.

An examination of the situation in Spain evokes the question: How is it that this regime, which has no roots among the people, the legality of which is questioned in the streets, and which daily gets less support even among those bourgeois forces which hitherto served as its pillar, continues to exist?

The Franco regime continues to exist mainly because of support from the outside, as a result of the dispersal of the opposition forces and the spirit of hopelessness prevalent among the major part of these forces and expressed in the previously mentioned letter of the Right-wing leader who said that "the only thing to do is to await the inevitable collapse". It is precisely in this word "await", signifying passivity, inactivity and rejection of struggle, that the strength of the regime and the weakness of the opposition lie.

Unfortunately, the same attitude, apart from some honourable exceptions, is taken by the Socialist, Republican, Anarchist and Nationalist leaders.

There is one thing common in the attitude of these political forces—the champions of the "wait-and-see" policy, uniting them. This is fear of the people, fear of an "extremely rapid" development of the struggle waged by the masses for democracy. Thanks to this "wait-and-see" policy and to the inactivity, butcher Franco manages to clear the shoals.

Nevertheless, the further development of the Franco policy of subservience to the Americans, the worsening of the economic situation in the country and the growing contradictions inside the Franco clique will compel these forces to change their attitude if they do not want events to overwhelm them.

The struggle fought by the working class in recent years demonstrates that neither terror, demagoguery nor American promises can forever hold in passivity or submission the working people who have become victims of the most ruthless exploitation. Repressions are no solution to the serious economic problems facing the country, problems which Francoism cannot solve.

The American "aid" to which Franco resorted in an attempt to keep his regime from falling apart, far from saving Spain from economic catastrophe, will make this catastrophe all the worse. The experience of other countries shows what will take place in Spain and what is already taking place in all spheres of national life.

The credits supplied to the Franco Government by the Americans are granted on the basis of an exchange rate fixed by the creditor; thus the dollar is now worth more than 50 pesetas. In 1936 the dollar was exchanged for 12 pesetas. This means that the inflation now rampant in Spain will reach astronomical figures, lower the purchasing power of the peseta and is making the life of the popular masses even more intolerable.

As for foreign trade, Spain cannot export the goods it wants to and where it wants to, since it must adapt itself to American interests, to the interests of those whose goods are flooding the majority of the capitalist markets.

National industry is beginning to suffer from an unbearable American competition since the Americans are interested in Spain only as a market and not as an object of aid in the matter of industrial progress.

In the sphere of foreign policy Spain is trailing behind the aggressive policy of the USA, risking all the consequences which this involves. The present events in Morocco vividly show the lengths to which the Franco clique has gone in fulfilling its duties as a foreign legion of the Pentagon.

Franco has handed over to the Americans all the secrets of national defence. The military organisation, strategic defence installations, the numerical strength of the army and its equipment, all this is being

## In Communist and Workers' Parties

### FIFTH CONVENTION OF LABOR-PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF CANADA

The Fifth Convention of the Labor-Progressive Party of Canada took place in Toronto. The first session heard the report of the National Committee given by Comrade Tim Buck, General Secretary of the Party, who dwelt in detail on the situation in Canada and international questions. Our country, he said, faces a growing and all-pervading crisis. It is a crisis of national policy.

Giving warning of the impending serious crisis, signs of which are already evident, Buck said that the Party's programme which aims to ward off the threat of depression could, if put into practice, lead to the ending of mass unemployment and the maintenance of purchasing power.

Tim Buck dwelt in detail on the US economic, military, political and cultural domination in Canada.

The delegates then proceeded to discuss the report of the National Committee, after which William Kashtan, head of the trade union department of the National Executive Committee, reported on "The struggle against the threat of economic crisis".

### "TO FIFTH CONVENTION OF LABOR-PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF CANADA

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union sends fraternal greetings to the Fifth Convention of the Labor-Progressive Party of Canada.

We wish the Labor-Progressive Party success in the struggle for strengthening the Canadian working people, for peace.

Long live the Labor-Progressive Party of Canada!

Long live the international solidarity of the working people in the fight for peace, democracy and Socialism!

Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union"

The delegates rose and applauded the greeting from the C.C. of the CPSU with a tumultuous ovation.

### VIIIth CONGRESS OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF WORKING PEOPLE OF CYPRUS

The VIIIth Congress of the Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL) took place early in March in Nicosia (Cyprus). The Congress was attended by 254 delegates, as well as fraternal delegates from other Communist and Workers' Parties, and numerous representatives from the non-party working people.

In an atmosphere of vigorous activity, criticism and self-criticism the delegates discussed the political report of the Central Committee made by Comrade E. Papaioannou, General Secretary of the Party, and the minimum programme "The Road to Freedom" and adopted corresponding

### MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, KOREAN PARTY OF LABOUR

The meeting of the Central Committee of the Korean Party of Labour held on March 21-23 discussed a report by Comrade Kim Ir Sen on the next tasks of the Party, state and economic organisations in the sphere of industry and transport and reviewed organisational questions.

Since the signing of the truce agreement, said Kim Ir Sen, our Party and Government have been primarily engaged in the necessary spadework to enable us to go ahead with the all-round rehabilitation of the national economy.

The tasks involved in the rehabilitation of the national economy are set out in the draft plan for rehabilitating and developing the national economy in 1954-1956, which was elaborated in accordance with the main line laid down by the sixth meeting of the C.C. of the Party held soon after the truce. In the near future the draft will be submitted to the Supreme People's

Executive Committee, delivered the report on the draft of the new Party programme. The Congress approved the draft with some amendments.

Resolutions were adopted on the following questions: a new national policy for Canada; struggle against the danger of economic crisis; unity of the people and the tasks of the Labor-Progressive Party; strengthening the Party, the National Federation of Labor Youth and the Party press.

The Congress elected the National Committee with Tim Buck as leader.

Messages of greetings were received from the Central Committees of fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties of the Soviet Union, Britain, United States, the People's Republic of China, France, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Western Germany, Japan, India, Mexico, Uruguay, Guatemala and others.

The greeting from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union reads:

The summing-up speech at the closing session of the Convention was made by Tim Buck.

decisions. Speaking about the successes achieved in the struggle for peace and national independence, the delegates stressed the need resolutely to eradicate the manifestations of sectarianism which, under present conditions, are the main obstacle to the further development of the Pan-Cypriot Patriotic Anti-Imperialist and Anti-War Front.

The Congress elected a new Central Committee of 21 members and a new Central Control Commission. Comrade E. Papaioannou was re-elected General Secretary of the Central Committee.

We have favourable objective conditions and possibilities, went on Kim Ir Sen, for the successful carrying out of this magnificent plan. We are getting economic and technical aid from the great Soviet people, also from the People's Republic of China and the People's Democracies. We have rich natural resources and untapped reserves at our disposal. We are rich in experience, we have people's rule which has been tempered and tried in both the five-year period of peaceful rehabilitation and building and the three-year war of national liberation.

Under the present conditions of the early stage of the rehabilitation and building of the national economy, stressed Kim Ir Sen, provincial, city and county

There is nothing stranger than to see Franco, whose military career is black with crimes and acts of violence against the people of Morocco, now acting the role of champion of the liberties of the Moroccans, of their defender against the arbitrary rule of the French colonisers. He could not have done this four years ago. He can do so now since he feels the support of the American ruling circles.

Where did Franco become notorious as a man devoid of shame and conscience? Where did he make his military career? He did this in Morocco serving the monarchy which was greatly interested in the Rif ore deposits, since the king was a big shareholder in the company exploiting these deposits. Franco made his career in Morocco by devastating villages, burning settlements, killing the cattle and destroying the crops of the Moroccan peasants, by shooting the Riffs who had risen in rebellion against Spain; Franco spared neither women nor children. It was for these services that Alphonso XIII promoted him to the rank of general. Who can believe that the man of such "exploits" in Morocco, the man who devastated Spain, reducing it to ruins and ashes, who has left not even a trace of the democratic freedoms, who abolished the autonomy of Catalonia and the Basque country, who slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Spaniards fighting for freedom and who turned Spain into one huge prison, can, overnight, become the champion of freedom of the Moroccan people?

The manoeuvres of the Franco Government in relation to Gibraltar and Morocco are part of the US plan to turn the Mediterranean into an American sea, to convert North Africa into a network of American bases which is part of the general US plan for world domination.

Once again the Franco clique appears before the world as at its very inception and what it has since been—a shock-detachment of fascist reaction spearheaded against the democratic movement; and now, as was the case yesterday, it acts as an anti-national force serving the interests of the enemies of Spain.

But there is a big difference between yesterday and today.

Yesterday, launching the putsch against the Republic, Franco rallied all the anti-democratic forces who believed in him and who hoped that he would forever secure their domination and the possibility of unhindered exploitation of Spain.

They asked much and Franco promised them even more. But all of them forgot the existence of the popular masses who must be taken into consideration; they forgot about the existence of the objective laws of economic development which operate notwithstanding the egotistic strivings of the financial oligarchy.

Now the reactionary fascist bloc headed by Franco shows signs of cracking, and, sensing the wreck, many of the rats are abandoning the Franco ship, justifying their flight by the inevitable collapse of the regime, by the inefficiency of the Franco rulers or by saying that the promises made during the anti-popular war have not been fulfilled.

Franco began his blood-stained rule in Spain by reducing the standard of living of the masses to the extreme. The home and foreign monopolies are making fabulous profits out of the unprecedented poverty

The letter says the Franco regime "is cracking and tottering, and the only thing to do is to await the inevitable collapse, to try and save what can be saved from the wreckage, within the framework of the regime, so that after clearing up the mess we shall be able to return to civilised political forms..."

The desertion of members from the Falange—fascist organisation on which Franco relies in carrying out his terrorist and anti-national policy—is taking place all the time. The report sent from Guipuzcoa to the Falange Congress held last autumn pointed out that of 14,272 members in the province "hardly more than 500 can be regarded as members in the full sense of the word". On the national scale, according to this report, "the Falange is split into almost as many groups, small and big, as it has members".

There is open talk about the transient character of the regime. The monarchists, silent when Franco was backed by Hitler, now stress the urgency of restoring the monarchy as a way out and a safety valve against a revolutionary upheaval.

In an article in the French journal "Ecrits de Paris", Calvo Serer, one of the prominent figures of the Franco regime, until recently professor in Madrid University, a leading monarchist, analysed the situation in Spain and the bitter struggle now being waged between the supporters and opponents of political change and reached the conclusion that changes are necessary. As an effective means of securing them without a violent upheaval, Serer suggests, just like any "Democratic Socialist", the notorious "third force" in order to "save what can be saved" from the inevitable collapse of Francoism.

Justifying the appearance of the "third force" on the political arena Serer declares that it is "full heir to the movement" and consists of "outstanding intellectuals and representatives of military, clerical and financial circles" united against the common enemy, and that it is born "out of the confusion prevailing among the groups occupying the front of the stage", that is, in the ranks of the Falange and the Franco Government.

The author, however, is not very sure about the effectiveness of the "third force" and utters the warning that if violence is used to frustrate or annul the activity of this "force" "it will be easy to foresee the result. Both the left forces of the Falange and the nihilism of the Christian Democrats will be directed solely in favour of the Republic..."

While the forces of the Right want to break with the Falange, and are suggesting their own way out of the situation, the Church, on the basis of the recent Concordat, wants to establish a Social-Christian Party and bring under its control the working-class organisations now dominated by the Falange. The Church, the forces of the Right, Monarchists and non-Monarchists—all are aware of the growing discontent among the popular masses and fear that the overthrow of the Franco tyranny would destroy the social base of the regime. So they are trying to avoid this and "to save what can be saved".

It is quite on the cards that in the effort to "save what can be saved", and in the determination not to tolerate the democratic outcome which both sides fear, a "modus vivendi" between Franco and the Monarch-

country, for the poverty of millions of people, for the affront to the national dignity of Spain, Francoism has attempted to deny its guilt, justifying its policy and the impoverishment of the country by the isolation to which it was doomed.

Nor have the conditions of the people improved since the USA and Great Britain, in violation of the Potsdam decisions, gave their support in Uno to the fascist regime in Spain and began rendering aid to the Franco Government on a wide scale.

The impoverishment of the masses continues to grow. The US-Franco pact, by means of which Franco hoped to strengthen his regime, is beginning to yield results, but they are the opposite of those anticipated by the dictator. The pact has given birth to hostility and mistrust even among capitalists who are conscious of the menace of American intervention in the economic life of Spain.

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An industrialist desirous of getting credits must not only pay their equivalent in pesetas, he has to supply the Americans with most detailed information on the state of his enterprises, which in ordinary language means naked industrial espionage.

In this way Spanish industrialists are drawn into the American net. The Americans can ruin them at any moment, with the help and complicity of the Franco Government, by utilising data they themselves have supplied.

All the contradictions in the imperialist camp find particularly sharp reflection in Spain where the traditionally British influence is being ousted by that of the Yankees who have the help of a new partner—Western Germany—which has its own specific aim: to regain the positions lost in consequence of the Hitler defeat in the second world war.

All this sharpens the political struggle in Spain between the Falangists, Monarchists, the supporters of the Vatican and their abettors in the Republican camp—the right-wing Socialist leaders. Anarchists, Republicans and Nationalists, since each of these parties or political groups is backed not only by different classes and groups of Spanish society but also by one or the other of the imperialist powers. This sharpening of the internal struggle among the ruling classes, a struggle reflecting the profound crisis of the regime, facilitates the struggle of the masses against Franco's fascist dictatorship.

There are people who ask how is it that the Americans have so rapidly taken possession of such important positions in Spain. This has become possible primarily because of the adventurist and corrupt nature of Francoism and, secondly, because the big Spanish financiers and monopolists are bound by complicated ties to foreign capital and have long since ceased to be a national force.

However, the facts will show the Americans and their Spanish accomplices that, while the ruling clique is capable of selling the independence and sovereignty of the country for dollars, there are national forces in the land sufficiently patriotic to stand up

of other countries shows what will take place in Spain and what is already taking place in all spheres of national life.

The credits supplied to the Franco Government by the Americans are granted on the basis of an exchange rate fixed by the creditor; thus the dollar is now worth more than 50 pesetas. In 1936 the dollar was exchanged for 12 pesetas. This means that the inflation now rampant in Spain will reach astronomical figures, lower the purchasing power of the peseta and is making the life of the popular masses even more intolerable.

As for foreign trade, Spain cannot export the goods it wants to and where it wants to, since it must adapt itself to American interests, to the interests of those whose goods are flooding the majority of the capitalist markets.

National industry is beginning to suffer from an unbearable American competition since the Americans are interested in Spain only as a market and not as an object of aid in the matter of industrial progress.

In the sphere of foreign policy Spain is trailing behind the aggressive policy of the USA, risking all the consequences which this involves. The present events in Morocco vividly show the lengths to which the Franco clique has gone in fulfilling its duties as a foreign legion of the Pentagon.

Franco has handed over to the Americans all the secrets of national defence. The military organisation, strategic defence installations, the numerical strength of the army and its armament—all this is known to the Americans and is controlled by them.

Spain can now be involved in war and its territory turned into a base for atomic aggression, contrary to the will of the Spanish people and even without the consent of the Government. This was clearly and comprehensively explained recently by Talbot, Secretary of the US Airforce. Replying to a journalist's question whether the Americans would use the Spanish bases in the event of war, Talbot cynically declared: Who is to prevent us from doing so?

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Such is the situation to which Spain has been reduced by Franco and the Spanish financial oligarchy, a situation which cannot last long, and the proof of this is the struggle for power waged by the different groups in the Franco ranks and the struggle of the masses which is daily gaining momentum.

The people hate the Franco regime and are fighting against its policy of war, terror and poverty. Franco's signature to the foul pact which turns Spain into an American colony is his and his only. The people have not given their approval to this signature and, despite persecution and terror, the will of the workers, peasants, intellectuals and the middle classes must increasingly be taken into account.

Consequently, the attitude of those who want to "wait until the regime collapses under its own weight" is a wrong attitude and, objectively, even helps to maintain Francoism. Regimes never collapse until blows are struck at them. It is necessary to deliver blow upon blow to the Franco regime, to strike at it until it is destroyed, since it signifies poverty and terror for the Spanish working people and on the international arena is a source of constant discord.

## Meeting of Central Committee, Communist Party of Algeria

A meeting of the C.C. of the Communist Party of Algeria took place in Algiers on March 13-14. The report of the Political Bureau of the C.C. was given by Comrade Ahmed Akkache, Secretary of the Party, who reviewed the international and internal situation. As for the latter, he said, the main features are the decline of mining and other branches of industry, the growth of unemployment affecting nearly one million people, greater exploitation of the working people by the trusts and the big

financial companies, as a result of which their profits in 1952 were ten times greater than in 1947, while conditions of the working people deteriorated. Communists, stressed Comrade Ahmed Akkache, must distribute and popularise on an increasingly wider scale the appeal of the Communist Party calling for the formation of an "Algerian Democratic National Front".

Comrade Ahmed Akkache went on to refer to the urgent tasks of the Party—the need to participate in every possible way

in the campaign for an amnesty for political exiles and prisoners, to support the immediate demands of the working people, to struggle against the formation of the "European Defence Community", which is a grave threat to the Algerian people, to fight for the ending of military operations in Indo-China and the return of the Algerian soldiers. Comrade Ahmed Akkache stressed the need for further strengthening the Party and for vigorous preparations for the regional Party conferences to be held on April 24-25.

He called for the intensification of the work of recruiting new members to the Party, for intensifying political work in the Party branches.

The meeting adopted resolutions protesting against the death sentences pronounced on Moroccan patriots and condemning the raid on the premises of the "Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Freedom", in both France and Algiers. The meeting decided to make April a "Month of the Communist Press".

other numerous representatives from the non-party working people.

In an atmosphere of vigorous activity, criticism and self-criticism the delegates discussed the political report of the Central Committee made by Comrade E. Papaioannou, General Secretary of the Party, and the minimum programme "The Road to Freedom" and adopted corresponding

## MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, KOREAN PARTY OF LABOUR

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Since the signing of the truce agreement, said Kim Ir Sen, our Party and Government have been primarily engaged in the necessary spadework to enable us to go ahead with the all-round rehabilitation of the national economy.

The tasks involved in the rehabilitation of the national economy are set out in the draft plan for rehabilitating and developing the national economy in 1954-1956, which was elaborated in accordance with the main line laid down by the sixth meeting of the C.C. of the Party held soon after the truce. In the near future the draft will be submitted to the Supreme People's Assembly for consideration and approval. According to the draft, industrial output in 1956 will be approximately 153 per cent compared with the pre-war 1949 figure, including 120 per cent for heavy industry and 137 per cent for light industry. The pre-war level will be reached or greatly surpassed in almost all branches of the national economy. Ruined factories and pits will be restored and enlarged. Many new factories will be built and put into operation.

## POLITICAL STUDY OF COMMUNISTS AT ALFA-ROMEO FACTORY

With a view to raising the ideological level of the members the Party Federation in Milan, in keeping with the directives of the Party Leadership, has organised study of the "Togliatti short course". This course of five subjects explains the character of the Communist Party and the role played by it. It facilitates the study of the history of the Party as described in the book "30 years of the Communist Party of Italy".

Study of the "Togliatti short course" in the Alfa-Romeo automobile factory was first begun among the Party activists: members of the Party committee, the leading workers in the mass organisations and the group secretaries. The class for these members, mainly young workers (the 22 students included 20 workers at the bench and 2 office workers), was taken by Comrade Alessandro Vaia, member of the Central Committee of the Party.

As distinct from the previous method the tutor did not give any lectures during the course. At the first class he confined himself to instructions on how to tackle the study material and showed the connecting link between the vital problems of the history of the Party and the struggle of the working class and the people of Italy for peace and the right to work, for freedom and national independence. Special attention was focused on the following questions: the fight of the Party for unity of the working class and all working people, the struggle of the Party against right and left deviations, the class character of fascism, the decline of the economy of the capitalist countries and the successes of Communist construction in the USSR.

This method enabled the students to engage in lively discussion of the five lectures. At the end of each class the tutor summed up the contributions made by the students. This method encouraged them to make a systematic study of the material

to the furtherance of the anti-imperialist and Cypriot Patriotic Anti-Imperialist and Anti-War Front.

The Congress elected a new Central Committee of 21 members and a new Central Control Commission. Comrade E. Papaioannou was re-elected General Secretary of the Central Committee.

We have favourable objective conditions and possibilities, went on Kim Ir Sen, for the successful carrying out of this magnificent plan. We are getting economic and technical aid from the great Soviet people, also from the People's Republic of China and the People's Democracies. We have rich natural resources and untapped reserves at our disposal. We are rich in experience, we have people's rule which has been tempered and tried in both the five-year period of peaceful rehabilitation and building and the three-year war of national liberation.

Under the present conditions of the early stage of the rehabilitation and building of the national economy, stressed Kim Ir Sen, the most important and urgent task of the provincial, city and county Party committees, as well as of all leading Party functionaries, is to eliminate shortcomings in industry and transport. To do this, he said, we must improve the work of the Party organisations in industrial enterprises, enhance the role of the workers in the realm of science and technique and the role of the working people's organisations, especially the trade unions and the Union of Democratic Youth, concern ourselves with steadily raising the material and cultural standards of the working people and sharpening revolutionary vigilance.

individually and to use supplementary sources.

The range of questions studied, the individual study and the wide discussion enabled the tutor to disclose and eliminate shortcomings which hindered the work of the Party organisation in the factory. For instance, a narrow bureaucratic method was revealed in the work of many of the groups in the factory, leading to their isolation from the working people. Another, no less serious shortcoming in the work of the groups was that many members were suspicious of the workers under the influence of the Social Democrats and Clericals and made no effort to draw closer to them, to win them to their side and bring them into the struggle for the common cause.

A few weeks after the beginning of the classes a pronounced increase in political activity was observed in the shops and steps were taken to consolidate unity of the working people. At the shop meetings called by the internal factory commission, votes were taken on resolutions signed by Social Democratic, Christian Democrat, Communist and Socialist workers calling for an end to super-exploitation, for observance of trade-union rights in the enterprises, respect for the rights of the internal factory commissions, for wage increases, etc. Joint delegations were elected to take these demands to the management.

Upon completing the "Togliatti short course" the members of the class undertook to help the other Communists and non-party workers in raising their ideological level. On some days about 100 copies of the "Togliatti short course" were sold.

Bruno CERASI,  
Secretary of Party section,  
A. Fiocchi Alfa-Romeo factory,  
Milan

## Close of XIIth Congress of All-Union Leninist Young Communist League

The XIIth Congress of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League closed on March 26.

At its closing sessions greetings were delivered to the Congress by Orlando Costa, representative of the C.C. of the Communist Youth League of Brazil; Yadamurun, Secretary of the C.C. of the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union; Markus Kainulainen, Chairman of the Democratic Youth Union of Finland; Charles Bresland, Secretary of the C.C. of the Australian "Eureka" League; Urban Karlsson, Youth Secretary of the C.C. of the Communist Party of Sweden; Norman Penner, Chairman of the Canadian National Federation of Labor Youth; Rene Verdoet, General Secretary of the People's Youth Union of Belgium; Pharaohs Grigoris, representative of the C.C. of the Young Communist League of Greece; Ingomar Wagner, Chairman of the C.C. of the Young Communist League of Denmark; Arne Jorgensen, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Young Communist League of Norway; Manuel Gomez, representative of the Union of Communist Youth of Chile; Johann Wolf, Chairman of the Central Committee of the All-Holland Youth Union; Farhan, Secretary of the Central Committee of the League of People's Youth of Iran; Enrique Aparicio, representative of the Communist Youth of Venezuela; David Burstein, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Union of Communist Youth of Israel; Ruben Azconegui, representative of the Communist Youth of the Republican Student Union of Syria; Pedro Garcia, representative of the Socialist Youth of Cuba; Hubert Schwab, Chairman of the Union of Free Youth of Austria, and by Teresa Martinez, representative of the United Socialist Youth of Spain. A greeting

from the Labor Youth League (USA) was read to the Congress.

The elections to the leading bodies of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League were held amidst great political activity. The Central Committee, consisting of 103 members and 47 alternate members, was elected by secret ballot. The Congress also elected the Central Auditing Commission of 31 members.

With great enthusiasm the XIIth Congress sent greetings to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in which it gave an assurance that the Young Communist League, true to the immortal ideas of Leninism, will staunchly follow the Communist Party like a faithful son, as its reliable reserve and assistant. The Young Communist League and the Soviet youth will tirelessly help the Party and the Soviet Government to strengthen the Soviet state, the alliance of the working class and the collective farm peasantry, the indestructible friendship of the peoples of the USSR and to ensure the triumph of Communism.

Closing the Congress Comrade Shelepin, Secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League, pointed out that the Congress was held in an atmosphere of principled criticism and self-criticism, under the slogan of improving the League's work for the Communist education of the young generation, under the slogan of mobilising the efforts of young patriots for active participation in the national struggle for building Communism in the Soviet Union.

"The Soviet youth", Comrade Shelepin concluded, "will continue to work, struggle and win just as the Communist Party teaches us!"

## Price Reduction in Hungary, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia

Displaying constant concern for raising the standard of living of the working people, the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic has reduced prices of fats and meat. The price reduction embraces all varieties of meat, meat products, fats, edible oil, margarine and tinned meat.

The population of the country will benefit from the price reduction to the extent of 500 million forints per annum.

Prices of fats are cut 14.3 per cent; edible oil 10.5 per cent; margarine 10 per cent; the cut in pork prices ranges from 7.8 per cent to 14.8 per cent; beef from 9.4 to 13.5; veal 7.8 per cent; lard 9 per cent, etc. The price reduction became effective on March 15.

On March 28 the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party issued a decree relating to a reduction in state retail prices for mass-consumption goods as from April 1. This, the fourth price reduction effected during the past two years, is a big step forward in improving the wellbeing of the working people of the country.

The latest price reduction covers nearly all the principal items of popular consumption. Retail prices are reduced as follows: bread 12 per cent; macaroni 22 per cent; meat 10.18 per cent; poultry 13.20 per

to 40 per cent; woollen fabrics from 15 to 30 per cent; silk fabrics from 20 to 25 per cent; knitted goods from 10 to 25 per cent and silk stockings 25 per cent.

Price reductions for bread and cotton fabrics alone will benefit the working people to the extent of 116 million and 189 million leva respectively. A family of four will be better off by an average of 700-800 leva a year.

The Government of the Czechoslovak Republic and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia have adopted a decision for a new reduction of state retail prices of consumer goods and the cost of public services as from March 29.

Prices are reduced as follows: bread 8.1 per cent; flour 10.9 per cent; rolls, pies, etc. 13.9 per cent; milk 10 per cent; butter 8 per cent; eggs 9.1 per cent; sugar from 8.3 to 8.8 per cent; confectionery 10 per cent; coffee 16.9 per cent; tea 10 per cent, etc. The prices in restaurants and canteens are correspondingly reduced.

The prices of cotton fabrics are reduced by 12-32 per cent; rayon and pure silk 45 per cent; woollen fabrics 33 per cent; knitwear from 11 to 40 per cent; ready-made clothing from 10 to 30 per cent; footwear 17.9 per cent, etc.

Prices for repairs to household utensils and for other household services are simultaneously reduced from 5 to 16 per cent.

## PEOPLE OF HOLLAND IN ACTION FOR PEACE, AGAINST THE "EUROPEAN DEFENCE COMMUNITY"

Five days before the Berlin Conference of the four Foreign Ministers began, the First Chamber of the States General (Senate) in Holland ratified the "European Defence Community" agreement. Of the 40 senators present (the Senate consists of 50 members) 36 voted for and 4 against ratification. Together with the two Communist members, Jonkman, Chairman of the First Chamber and a Party of Labour member, and Professor Gerretson of the "Christian-Historic Union" (one of the conservative parties) voted against ratification.

The debate in the Senate clearly revealed the growing opposition to the "European Defence Community" agreement in all the political parties of Holland despite its ratification. In contrast to the debate which took place in the Second Chamber on July 22-23 last year, the senators, and especially the Socialist senators, were compelled to admit that the situation in Western Germany was giving rise to much concern in their parties; in other words the opposition of the rank-and-file Socialists to recreating the Nazi Wehrmacht is increasing. Jonkman declared that although he was in the minority in the First Chamber, judged from the standpoint of Europe as a whole, he actually expressed the views of the majority in voting against the agreement.

The decision taken by the First Chamber was by no means in harmony with the peaceful strivings of the Dutch people. It is, furthermore, flagrantly opposed to the genuine interests of Holland, and the hundreds of letters and statements addressed to the First Chamber in connection with the debate attest to this. This was particularly evident at the Vigilance Congress in Relation to German Militarism held in Amsterdam two days before the debate opened and in which 1,500 people of different political trends took part. The Congress, convened on the initiative of the Dutch Peace Council and prepared jointly with the "Group for Action against the Rearming of Germany and Reviving Fascism in Germany" and the Committee for "Unity of Resistance Fighters" uniting various resistance organisations, represented the great majority of the Dutch people and was a big success for the patriotic forces.

Numerous speakers, voicing the views of the people, protested against ratifying the agreement on the "European Defence Community". A letter addressed to the members of the First Chamber and a call to the Dutch people for resistance against the menace threatening Holland were unanimously adopted.

The growing opposition in the ranks of the Party of Labour to reviving German militarism was expressed not only in the fact that large numbers of members and supporters of this Party and Socialist trade unionists were present at the Congress. It is expressed also in the fact that a large number of Socialists, supporters of the trend known as the "Third Way", are participating in the peace movement and in the activity of the Christian-Pacifist organisation, "Church and Peace".

The leaders of the "Third Way" movement, most of whom are members of the Party of Labour, have often tried to hinder the peace movement and have systematically refused to cooperate with the Dutch

The prestige of the Dutch Peace Council grew during the campaign against the "European Defence Community" and many of those who earlier refused to fight alongside the Peace Council against the agreement have now changed their positions.

Despite the opposition of the Dutch people and their clearly expressed desire not to tolerate a revival of German militarism, the agreement on the "European Defence Community" was ratified on January 20.

Evidence that this occurred under direct American pressure is supplied by the congratulatory telegram sent in this connection by the USA Government and by the commentary carried in the "New York Times" stating that in view of the forthcoming Berlin talks this ratification was of particular importance. Still more striking proof of the way in which the Dutch Government kow-tows to the American imperialists is the declaration made by Staf, Dutch Minister of War, after his visit to the USA to the effect that American military air bases would be set up in Holland this year. Everything goes to show that Washington intends to replace the covert economic occupation of our country by open military occupation.

The Dutch Government, which is pursuing a policy of preparing for war, is trying to instil into the population the idea that the Berlin Conference is of no significance and that everything "remains as it was before". It is trying to create difficulties for the forthcoming Conference in Geneva, just as it did in the case of the Berlin meeting and is silent about the possibilities of lessening international tension.

Such a policy entirely contradicts the strivings of the Dutch people; a questionnaire recently carried through among various sections of the population confirms this. The following questions were put to the people:

1. Do you think that all controversial issues between the East and the West should be solved by negotiation and not by force?

2. Do you think that a Conference of the leading statesmen of the Great Powers would help to solve these issues?

Of the 8,039 approached, representing different sections of the population living in various parts of the country, 77.5 per cent gave a positive answer to the first query, 3.16 per cent replied in the negative and 19.34 per cent gave no opinion. To the second question 75.11 per cent answered in the affirmative, about 4 per cent in the negative, the remainder giving no answer at all. The questionnaire has shown how deeply the Appeal made by the Budapest Session of the World Peace Council in June last year accords with the feelings of many Dutch people.

The Dutch Peace Council called on the population to sharpen their vigilance in view of the menace to the security of our country emanating from the rebirth of aggressive German militarism and the establishment of US military bases in Holland. The question today is—collective security

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**Gerben Wagenaar**

Chairman of the Communist Party of Holland

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that they are being robbed of their political freedom by the policy of the "European Defence Community", are becoming more and more conscious of whither subordination to American dictatorship is leading them.

Our people have repeatedly demonstrated in mass actions their hatred for the restoration of Nazism. Ever broader masses are commemorating the anniversaries of the victims of German fascism; for example, the demonstration recently held to commemorate the strike in February 1941, the heroic struggle of the Dutch people against the brutal persecution of the Jews by the Nazis and their Dutch menials. The call of the Committee set up to carry out measures to commemorate the February strike of 1941 met with a response from thousands of people who took part in the demonstration at the memorial to resistance fighters in the centre of Amsterdam.

When a group of former fascists made an attempt to revive the fascist party, this called forth mass protests from the population, and the Government was compelled to bring the instigators to court. They were, however, found not guilty.

The deep indignation of the population, particularly the rank-and-file Socialists, was aroused by the decision of the Government to raise the Dutch Legation in Franco Spain to the status of an Embassy for the purpose of broadening diplomatic relations.

The anniversary of the capitulation of the German-fascist occupation troops was previously honoured as a national holiday; now, however, the Government has decided to abolish the May 5 holiday. This decision has stirred the people. Despite government instructions not to free anyone from work on that day, many local councils, including large communities, have decided to give their employees a free day. Workers in private enterprises, members of the most varied trade unions, have decided either not to work at all or only part of this day. In the struggle for national sovereignty, unity of action between Communists and Socialists is growing. Great preparations are going ahead to enable the Dutch people to celebrate the day of liberation this year on an unprecedented scale.

All this clearly shows that the Dutch people have not forgotten and will never forget the suffering brought by the Nazis to their country, and points to their extreme dissatisfaction with the policy now being pursued by the Government and to the fervent aspirations of our people for peace.

The task at present is more actively to rally the whole of our people to struggle, primarily, for the security of our country, against aggressive German militarism and against the establishment of US military aircraft bases on the territory of Holland. For this it is necessary in the first place to come closer to the masses of Social Democrats and enlist them in this struggle.

The Berlin Conference of Foreign Ministers has opened the eyes of many Social Democrats. It has shown them that negotiations can give positive results and they are becoming more deeply conscious of the fact that the rebirth of the German Wehrmacht is a menace to the security and free-

ing peace. These leaders are carrying on unbridled persecution of Socialists who support the maintenance of peace, join the peace committees or sympathise with them. Despite this the resistance of the Socialist workers is being carried on on an even bigger scale. As a result there is discord in the Socialist leadership on the question of the "European Defence Community" and the May 5 celebration.

One of the chief tasks of the peace supporters is to enlist the Socialist workers into the work of the peace committees, the number of which must be increased, and jointly discuss plans of action.

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The Communists are in the front ranks of the fighters for peace. They are active supporters of unity of action between the Communists and Socialists on the basis of the struggle for maintaining peace, for bread.

Instead of the "European Defence Community", the Communist Party puts forward a proposal for the General European Treaty on Collective Security in Europe and emphasises that the task at present is to achieve by united action a new course in government policy.

"The security and prosperity of our country", states the Resolution of the C.C. of the Communist Party of Holland, "can be attained only by strengthening peace and supporting measures for solving all international differences by means of agreements acceptable to both East and West."

This presupposes, as is stated in the Resolution, that the People's Republic of China will be accorded its lawful place in Uno, an extension of trade and economic co-operation between the East and the West in the interests of raising the standard of living of all peoples and safeguarding the workers in capitalist countries from the consequences of an economic crisis the signs of which are to be observed in our country, in Indonesia and other countries, particularly in the USA.

The Resolution further states:  
"In contrast to the plans for rearming German militarism, entering into alliance with Franco, Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek, the Communist Party of Holland is striving to unite all the national and democratic forces of Holland and, primarily, to achieve unity of action between the Communists and Socialists. It is striving to revive the co-operation which existed during the occupation between all who fought in Holland or abroad against the German Wehrmacht; to extend co-operation with everyone desirous of continuing this struggle, no matter what their political opinions were in the past or to what social groupings they belong."

These problems, together with the struggle for increased wages and a broadening of labour laws, are in the centre of the campaign for elections to the provincial councils which will take place on April 21. The Communist Party of Holland is carrying on the election campaign under the slogan of raising wages, stabilising prices, lowering taxes, increasing allocations for social needs, restoring national sovereignty, for collective security and peace, against the "European Defence Community".

The peace-loving forces of Holland, full of optimism, are marching forward to a new phase of struggle. This phase will be marked by more vigorous struggle for continued

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The prices of manufactured goods are considerably reduced. Price reductions for cotton fabrics, for instance, range from 10

per cent to the extent of 16 million and 189 million leva respectively. A family of four will be better off by an average of 700-800 leva a year.

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Prices for repairs to household utensils and for other household services are simultaneously reduced from 5 to 16 per cent.

The price reduction affects 53,000 items and will benefit the population to the tune of 5,600 million crowns annually; the benefit accruing from the price reduction for household services will amount to 280 million crowns annually.

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The leaders of the "Third Way" movement, most of whom are members of the Party of Labour, have often tried to hinder the peace movement and have systematically refused to co-operate with the Dutch Peace Council. However, due to the growing discontent among the rank-and-file Socialists, they have been compelled to come out in letters and statements against the agreement on the "European Defence Community".

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The task at present is more actively to rally the whole of our people to struggle, primarily, for the security of our country, against aggressive German militarism and against the establishment of US military aircraft bases on the territory of Holland. For this it is necessary in the first place to come closer to the masses of Social Democrats and enlist them in this struggle. The Berlin Conference of Foreign Ministers has opened the eyes of many Social Democrats. It has shown them that negotiations can give positive results and they are becoming more deeply conscious of the fact that the rebirth of the German Wehrmacht is a menace to the security and freedom of Holland, that the agreement on the "European Defence Community" is fraught with the danger of a new Nazi occupation.

There are big perspectives for developing a mass movement against the danger threatening our land and people. The Dutch people, who are bearing a heavy burden of military expenditure and are discovering

known expert on photo-nuclear reaction and cosmic rays, and of Wyman, a bio-physicist, head of the American Scientific Bureau in Paris. Mr. Eyges keeps a close eye on all achievements in the field of theoretical physics in France and especially on the work of the Supreme Commission on Atomic Energy. True, when he visits some of the departments of the Commission which have still not recognised his authority, he is unpleasantly surprised to see the photos of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg hanging on the walls.

made by French producers, a stipulation which enables the Americans to pump out French money through their dummies. In the USA, however, French films are completely boycotted and export of French films to the USA is insignificant. On the other hand the French Government, by means of unbearable taxation, is strangling the production of home-made films.

In a country like France which experienced the horrors of Hitler fascism, it is very difficult for rabid reactionary ideology to come out in its true colours. It is forced to have recourse to the most crafty camouflage, to demagoguery such as the propaganda of cosmopolitanism, the "unity of the free world" and "Western culture". It is forced to hold forth about the "unity of the continent" at a time when dismemberment and aggression are in preparation, to eulogize the "freedom of the individual" at a time when witch-hunting is on the agenda in France modelled on the American pattern, to boost "Franco-German agreement" in order to impose on the country the strange alliance of a West German jockey riding the French horse. When little Red Riding-Hood asked the wolf masquerading as her grandmother why it had such big teeth the latter answered, in Adenauer's latest interpretation of the ancient fairy tale: "All the better to 'integrate' you with."

Although the huge propaganda machine pumping out propaganda for "United Europe" is mixing up all concepts, even the most near-sighted can grasp the real state of affairs. "The Coal and Steel Community", the "Blue Pool" or a "United Film Industry", the "White Pool" or the "United Health Service", the "Green Pool" or the "United Agriculture"—all these can be judged, say, from the example of the "United Agriculture". The essence of this organisation is as follows: France will import tractors, agricultural machinery, sulphate of copper and nitrogen from Western Germany, while the latter will buy grain, vegetables, fruit and meat from France. In other words, France is to become an agricultural supplier of Western Germany and, as a consequence, close her industrial enterprises, the very thing that Hitler tried to accomplish.

is striving to unite all the national and democratic forces of Holland and, primarily, to achieve unity of action between the Communists and Socialists. It is striving to revive the co-operation which existed during the occupation between all who fought in Holland or abroad against the German Wehrmacht; to extend co-operation with everyone desirous of continuing this struggle, no matter what their political opinions were in the past or to what social groupings they belong.

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The peace-loving forces of Holland, full of optimism, are marching forward to a new phase of struggle. This phase will be marked by more vigorous struggle for continued negotiations, for increased action against the menace of the rebirth of German militarism, for vigorous struggle by the people against the establishment of US military air bases in our country, for security and peace.

# For Flowering of National Culture in France

★  
**Georges Cogniot**

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Member, C.C., French Communist Party

At present, as never before, the US ruling circles and their West German henchmen are intensifying their pressure on France, striving to bring her into the "European Defence Community". This pressure is exercised in economic and political life with the aim of influencing the public and parliament and of securing ratification of the "European Defence Community" agreement. The pressure is being intensified on the cultural front as well. Proof of this lies in the numerous facts of the "Americanisation" of cultural life. But the patriotic forces in the country, battling for the development of national culture, are intensifying their resistance.

## I.

At the end of 1953 something unprecedented took place in France. The National Assembly approved, by a majority, the budgets for the various communal services and three times rejected the Government appropriations for public education, scientific research and art development. These appropriations were so ridiculously meagre that even the National Assembly, undemocratically elected on the basis of the electoral law of June 17, 1951, refused to approve them.

The reasons for the Chamber refusing to approve these appropriations must be sought in the pressure exerted on it by the powerful movement of teachers, scientific workers, students, the entire working-class and democratic public who are opposed to a situation which is characterised, in the main, by the following features:

1. Absence of anything in the nature of a comprehensive building programme for schools and higher educational establishments which, in view of the sharp increase in the birth-rate since the war, makes it impossible to ensure more or less normal study for the children and even entry into the schools.

2. The adamant refusal of the Government to satisfy the absolutely justified economic demands of the teachers.

3. The striving of the Government to deprive teachers and scientific workers of

the last vestiges of freedom and to subject them to a real McCarthy regime.

4. The Government's refusal to undertake any measures to democratise the system of entry into secondary schools and universities, its reluctance to enact any democratic reform in the sphere of education and even a striving to effect changes of reactionary and Malthusian character.

The number of university students of working-class origin is less than two per cent of the total. The Government intends to close the doors of higher education also to representatives of the middle classes now going through the mill of proletarianisation by the very development of capitalist economy. The official motto cynically proclaimed by one of the General Directors of the Ministry of Public Education, a former Vichyite, is: "We have had enough of students coming out with demands and continually annoying us with requests for hostels and canteens".

The Catholic hierarchy and its party, the MRP, are, naturally, exerting their pressure in order to crush public education, even though it has only a formally secular character, since the representatives of private religious education regard it as a rival.

The entire clique of American agents in France are burning with the desire to strangle any independent scientific research and to get the Government to deprive scientific workers of material support.

Allan T. Waterman, Director of the US National Research Institute, informed the Emigration and Naturalisation Commission on October 27, 1952, not without bitterness, that radar, the atom bomb, jet aircraft and all other outstanding technical achievements of recent years were based on discoveries

and research made in foreign countries. This, he added, is fraught with a clear danger.

It follows, therefore, that if teachers and scientific workers in these countries persist in their striving for national independence, as is very much the case in France, there is only one thing to do: reduce to nil the very content of their work. Such, in reality, is the programme of the American inspirers of the present French Government.

## II.

Simultaneously with measures for financial hamstringing the pro-American ruling circles have launched a monstrous campaign to destroy the national character of education, science and technique.

In the College de France, the most important scientific establishment in the country—where as a rule the only tutors employed are those who include in their lectures not that which has been achieved and generalised in the text-books, but the latest achievements and discoveries—the course on atomic physics has been entrusted, on the initiative of the Social Democrat Perrin, to an American tutor who is incapable of original work. This strange tutor confines himself to the reading of a text-book of his own which for months past has been available in all the specialised libraries. In the Physics and Mathematics Faculty in the Sorbonne the lectures of the American tutor, Marchak, are no longer even translated into French as if the national language merits the same lack of respect as the dignity of a "Minister of Europe".

Our country is being flooded with transatlantic "lecturers" and "scientific workers" in line with the Fulbright Act. This American law, as applied in France, stipulates that these gentlemen shall be maintained on the "equivalent account" accruing from the credits granted under the "Marshall plan". In the sphere of science and technique these gentlemen operate a real intelligence service under the direction of Leonard Eyges, scientific adviser to the American Embassy in Paris and well-

The top circles, quite clearly, are doing all in their power to demoralise French engineers, to inculcate in them the idea of France becoming reconciled to non-use of her capacities in the sphere of technique.

At the instigation of Minister Plevin, the aircraft plants are being closed and the technical personnel are wondering whether 1954 will become the last year of the existence of the national aircraft industry which once held first place in the world. Scientific research and the development of national technology are being suppressed by means of reduced allocations and by importing Anglo-Saxon journals in increasing numbers, to the detriment of all others, and by wholesale utilisation of foreign patents. Meanwhile, French engineers, men who feel that they are the national living capital, are forced to do unskilled work. Professor Frederic Joliot-Curie in a recent interview denounced this deliberate stifling, by means of material pressure, of science and technique which have valuable specialists and splendid traditions.

And if scoundrels are wanted to "bring to reason" the French intellectuals, who express their just discontent, they can be found in the so-called cultural establishments of the "Council of Europe" in Strasbourg. The real purpose of these establishments is to ensure luxurious conditions for a clique of emigres in the guise of students and intellectuals belonging to the former exploiting classes in the People's Democracies and to the circles which collaborated with Hitler. Nearly a hundred of these fascist scoundrels, assigned the role of spies, are lavishly supported by the Americans in the Robertsau Castle in Strasbourg.

French patriotic intellectuals turn away in disgust from these vermin.

The intelligentsia as a whole is indignant that the Government has sabotaged the holding of great national celebrations such as the anniversaries of Hugo and Rabelais, that the ruling circles have done absolutely nothing to mark the 20th anniversary of the discovery of artificial radio activity by the great French scientists.

(Continued on page 4)

## For Continued Improvement in Work of Branches in Hungarian Working People's Party

Between February 1 and March 15 the branches of the Hungarian Working People's Party held their reporting-back and election meetings. Wide criticism and self-criticism were the keynote of these meetings which disclosed the errors and shortcomings in Party, state and economic work and rallied the members for carrying out Party policy. The meetings played an exceptionally vital role in the political preparations for the Third Congress of our Party.

During the past nine months the Central Committee of the Party adopted a number of important decisions aimed at raising the material and cultural level of the working people and consolidating socialist law. Of great importance is the decision of the Central Committee and the Council of Ministers for the development of agriculture. In the course of carrying out the decisions of the Party and the Government the enterprises are producing articles of mass consumption in increasing quantities and ever-increasing quantities of foodstuffs are on sale. Price reductions covering a whole range of manufactured goods and foodstuffs and two price reductions covering a restricted range of manufactured goods and foodstuffs have been effected since the publication of the Government programme.

Successful realisation of the policy of the Party and the Government depends on the work of millions of working people. The organisations of the Party play an important role in stimulating the activity of the working people. The factory and rural organisations of the Party lead the work of the masses for increasing production, for better work and for spreading the socialist emulation; the Party organisations in the offices are pioneers in ensuring efficient, planned and disciplined work in the state bodies. Taking into consideration that nearly 80 per cent of the Party branches are located in factories, mines, producer co-operatives, machine and tractor stations, state farms, in the trading network and in offices, the significance of the reporting-back meetings for carrying out the decisions of the Party and the Government becomes clear. The Communists were confronted with the task of electing leaders experienced in Party work and enjoying the confidence of the masses; leaders capable of invigorating the activity of the Party members and probationers and of extending and strengthening, with their help, the bonds with the working people; leaders capable of improving the mass political work so that the working people can, consciously and with conviction, take part in carrying out the decisions of the Party and the Government.

Firm adherence to the principle of inner-Party democracy is the main method for stimulating the activity of the Party members. Attaching great significance to this the Central Committee saw to it that inner-Party democracy was strictly observed at all the reporting-back and election meetings.

The meetings yielded remarkable positive results. The vast majority of the members and probationers thoroughly acquainted themselves with the decisions of the Central Committee during the preparation for these meetings. In this respect a big role was played by the Party groups. The group meetings discussed the work of the groups and bureau of the Party branch.

As a rule, the meetings were attended by 90-95 per cent of the members; cases were not infrequent when the meetings were attended by the entire membership of the given organisation. As a result of the good

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had been cases when the secretary of a given organisation addressed the reporting-back meeting with the report that he had compiled himself and not with the report of the entire bureau; the latter had not discussed or approved his report. The vast majority of the reports made to the recent meetings were prepared collectively by the bureaus.

While preparing the reports some of the bureaus used the material of the meetings previously held by the groups—a method which enabled them fully to examine the entire life of the Party organisation and to go deeper into the shortcomings in the work. In many Party branches, however, the leadership failed to make use of this opportunity. The reports made by these bureaus were poor in content, their main shortcoming being that the Party work was tackled in isolation from the work of the given factory or office. In these reports the points taken up were propaganda work, the work of the agitators, the branch meetings and many other aspects of the Party life of the given organisation, but not a word was said about how it handled the job of training the members to become leading workers in the enterprise, about how the Party organisation and the members draw the working people as a whole into socialist construction and how they combat errors and shortcomings in work.

The reports of many of the bureaus of the rural organisations of the Party did not give enough attention to the manner in which the members are translating into life the decisions of the Party and the Government for advancing agriculture, for fulfilling the state delivery quotas, timely preparation of the spring field work and timely repairs to the agricultural machinery; such reports failed to mobilise in due manner the Party members for carrying out the tasks confronting them. Some of the bureaus wrongly thought that the reporting-back meetings should concentrate solely on matters pertaining to the inner life of the given organisation. It was this concentration on purely "internal matters" that constituted the biggest shortcoming of the reporting-back meetings.

The members subjected to severe criticism those reports which failed to cover Party life as a whole, severely criticised the shortcomings in Party and economic work and the poor organisation in some factories; they insisted on better organisation of the labour processes, on having adequate supplies of raw materials, better labour and financial discipline; they criticised the work of separate sections of the Party and state apparatus for bureaucratic red tape in carrying out the decisions of the Party and the Government, nor did they spare those leading functionaries who never leave their desks, who never associate themselves with the working people and ignore their criticism and suggestions.

The activity of the members was manifested also in the fact that they took upon themselves definite pledges in honour of the Third Party Congress—to fulfil the plan ahead of schedule, to turn out only high-quality goods, to economise on materials and first of all electric power, coal

In the course of the reporting-back campaign the members displayed high political consciousness and understanding of the policy of the Party. They were most careful in seeing to it that careerist elements did not worm their way into the bureaus.

But mistakes were made in the course of the elections—manifested in a formal attitude towards inner-Party democracy. In a number of Party organisations, mostly in the offices, the discussion of separate candidates to the bureaus, especially those functioning as the leaders of offices, developed into unprincipled boosting. There were cases when all the members within the competency of one or another candidate supported his election. In such cases inner-Party democracy was utilised for purposes of glorification which, naturally, did not contribute to improving the work of the given organisation.

Generally speaking, the elections demonstrated the high demands made by the members. They strove to elect to the bureau comrades who have already acquired rich experience of leading work. From 60 to 65 per cent of the old bureau members were re-elected; women constitute one-sixth of the bureau members.

Successful carrying out of the task advanced by the Party and the Government concerning the development of agriculture calls for strong and close contact with the working peasants. About 17 per cent of the members of the new Party bureaus are working peasants. However, the Party members do not sufficiently appreciate the importance of drawing the individual working peasants into active Party life. True, the new bureaus of the rural Party organisations contain more individual working peasants, but not in sufficient measure. This shows that in the near future we must fully explain to all members the role played in our country by the individual working peasants and above all by the middle peasants.

The newly-elected branch bureaus also contain more members drawn from the Communist intelligentsia. The good thing is that these are drawn mainly from the engineer-technical intelligentsia, agronomists and school-teachers. This is extremely important because the building of Socialism confronts the branch organisations with ever bigger and more responsible tasks the solution of which is impossible without the help of the Communist intellectuals.

The new branch bureaus have got down to work with enthusiasm. As a result of their activity the socialist emulation in honour of the Third Congress of the Party is acquiring an ever greater scale. By way of example we can quote the Ozd iron and steel plant and the Lenin iron and steel plant in Diosgyör where, as a result of the selfless efforts of the Communists and the entire personnel, the production indices are constantly going up. The personnel of the Borsod mining trust did not fulfil the plan over a period of months. At the reporting-back Party meetings the members undertook, in honour of the Congress, to do away with the lag. At the moment all the mines of the trust are overfulfilling the plan. Spring field work, too, is developing on an ever-growing scale.

Of course the new Party bureaus must be given great help in order to enable them to master the art of leadership. The Party organs will fulfil this task more successfully to the extent that their functionaries spend more time in the localities teaching and instructing the secretaries and the members of the branch bureaus.

At the district and regional Party con-



McCarthy and his hounds.

(From the American newspaper "National Guardian").

## Forthcoming Elections in Belgium

Parliamentary and provincial council elections will take place in Belgium on April 11. All patriotic forces are taking advantage of the election campaign to intensify the struggle against the "European Defence Community" which serves as a smoke-screen for rearming the German revanchists, and to expose the policy of national betrayal pursued by the ruling circles of Belgium.

The Communist Party of Belgium, vanguard of the patriotic forces, is putting forward candidates in almost all constituencies. With a view to bringing Socialist and Communist working people closer together and to re-grouping the progressive forces, the Central Committee, in a statement as far back as January 24, made clear its attitude as regards the possible withdrawal of some of its candidates in favour of other progressive candidates. These proposals were brought to the notice of the population and contact was established with some federations of the Socialist Party. In the Political Bureau's statement of March 16, the Communist Party reported the agreement reached in the provinces of Limbourg and Luxembourg where the Party did not put up candidates and called for support for the Socialist candidates. At the same time the statement exposes the anti-national policy of the right-wing Socialist leaders in the provinces of Western Flanders and Namur, who rejected the proposals of the Communist Party.

In the electoral district of Namur this stand of the Socialist leaders was exposed by the Communist Party in a leaflet, of which 20,000 copies were printed, and aroused sharp protests from the Socialist working people. As a result of the contact established here between the Socialist working people and activists of the Communist Party, a "joint list of progressive working people", including candidates from Socialists, Communists and non-party people, was put forward.

## FACTS EXPOSE...

**Baby Farming** A black market in babies has been discovered by the police in Montreal. The babies are sold to wealthy people in the USA. The unfortunate mothers who, as a rule, are unmarried women, either received small sums for the infants or were paid maternally home expenses. There were cases when the infants were taken from the

## The Fomenters of War Hysteria

From the experience of recent international developments ordinary people in all countries are becoming more and more convinced that a lessening of the international tension can be achieved and that it is not at all obligatory to live in the atmosphere of the so-called "cold war" which is a heavy burden on the peoples and fraught with the danger of another world slaughter. Everyone who follows events without prejudice sees that there is another way—the way of friendship between the peoples and of collective security, the way of continuous extension of mutually advantageous economic and cultural relations.

A definite positive role in this respect was played by the Conference of the four Foreign Ministers in Berlin which resulted in a certain easing of the tension in the international relations. The forthcoming Conference in Geneva of representatives of France, Britain, the USA, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, with other interested countries participating, opens up the prospect of solving burning international issues such as the final peaceful settlement in Korea and a cease-fire in Indo-China. In Europe the popular masses display a growing understanding of and support for the proposals made by the Soviet Union for a general European system of collective security with the participation of all interested countries. The creation of an effective system of collective security would put an end to the formation in Europe of military groupings of states opposed to one another.

But this course of international development is not to the liking of all. It is not to the liking of the American monopolists, the armament manufacturers who see in the easing of the international tension a danger for their profits. Never before has there been manifested so strikingly and clearly the direct connection between the colossal profits amassed by the American monopolies from the arms drive and the policy pursued by the aggressive US circles of sharpening the tension in international relations. This explains the latest wave of war hysteria in the USA, the purpose of which is to sow confusion and alarm about alleged "aggressive designs" on the part of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, for the purpose of poisoning the international atmosphere.

The leading role in this foul game is played by none other than John Foster Dulles, US State Secretary. In speech after speech Dulles goes out of his way to distort the political aims of the Soviet Union. Having lost all sense of reality Dulles asserted at a session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the very existence of the "Soviet bloc", as he put it, referring to the countries of the democratic camp, constitutes a serious danger such as we (meaning the USA) have never encountered before.

The Secretary of State is all out to make publicity for the "new look" tactic of the US war policy which consists of "instant massive retaliation (?)" with all means, including atomic weapons, in the event of alleged aggression should the President decide that the vital interests of the USA are in danger. Thus, according to this tactic, the most rabid aggressive circles in the USA take upon themselves the right to

widely discussed at all the political crossroads in the USA. The war-crazy Congressmen, retired and active generals and past and present ministers are making speeches and giving interviews. To Adlai Stevenson's remark that the "new look" rules out the golden opportunities for "little wars" Dulles solemnly replied that such is not the case: it implies big and little wars at the same time...

That this is really so, cannot be better shown than by Dulles' speech at the Foreign Press Club on March 29, when he declared that today the USA is ready to prove its resolve to undertake the "serious risk" of extending the war in Indo-China. In point of fact Dulles declared the intention of the USA, under the signboard of "united action", to organise direct intervention against the peoples of Viet Nam, Pathet-Lao and Khmer, who are battling for independence. At the same time, as the Paris newspaper "Figaro" reported, Dulles "rudely warned" the political circles in France against attempting to stop the bloodshed in Indo-China without taking into consideration the general strategic interests of the USA.

Thus this latest speech by Dulles, delivered shortly before the date scheduled for the Conference in Geneva, is calculated to prevent reaching an agreement acceptable to all its participants.

This speech also signifies that the aggressive circles of the USA, fearing the failure of their anti-people's foreign policy, are ready to go the whole hog, even to the extent of crushing by arms "in any place" any popular liberation movement endangering the interests of the US monopolies.

It is not difficult to guess whose work the leader of the American diplomatic service is doing when he makes such speeches. The advancing economic crisis is becoming felt more and more in the American economy. The crisis threatens the profits of the capitalists, and they have no intention of putting up with that. The ruling classes of the USA are fanning the flames of war hysteria, hoping thereby to force the American taxpayer and the taxpayer in countries of the Atlantic bloc to pay for the colossal armaments programme which ensures billions in profits for their monopolies. Is it not clear that only those who are here today and gone tomorrow, who have no faith in the morrow, for whom there is no morrow can, and do, act in this way?

It is perfectly understandable that as a result of this venturesome policy the contradictions and differences between the USA and their Atlantic Pact allies will grow since no country can agree that the question of taking part in a war, that is, a question of life or death for it, shall be decided by a handful of American politicians and not by the Government of the particular country. The reaction of other countries to the war hysteria raised in the USA testifies to these serious differences. Speaking against the intention of the USA to decide the question of war or peace at its own discretion, Lester B. Pearson, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Canada, stated that Washington's fingers were itching on the atom bomb. Dulles' speeches have given rise to considerable alarm in Britain, France and other countries.

The intrigues of the aggressive American circles directed at foreign

the confidence of the masses; leaders capable of invigorating the activity of the Party members and probationers and of extending and strengthening, with their help, the bonds with the working people; leaders capable of improving the mass political work so that the working people can, consciously and with conviction, take part in carrying out the decisions of the Party and the Government.

Firm adherence to the principle of inner-Party democracy is the main method for stimulating the activity of the Party members. Attaching great significance to this the Central Committee saw to it that inner-Party democracy was strictly observed at all the reporting-back and election meetings.

The meetings yielded remarkable positive results. The vast majority of the members and probationers thoroughly acquainted themselves with the decisions of the Central Committee during the preparation for these meetings. In this respect a big role was played by the Party groups. The group meetings discussed the work of the groups and bureau of the Party branch.

As a rule, the meetings were attended by 90-95 per cent of the members; cases were not infrequent when the meetings were attended by the entire membership of the given organisation. As a result of the good job done by the groups the members displayed excellent initiative at the branch meetings and many members made critical remarks and comprehensive suggestions.

The principle of collective leadership has been further developed. In the past there

the tasks confronting them. Some of the bureaus wrongly thought that the reporting-back meetings should concentrate solely on matters pertaining to the inner life of the given organisation. It was this concentration on purely "internal matters" that constituted the biggest shortcoming of the reporting-back meetings.

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Broad inner-Party democracy was the keynote of the election of the leading organs of the branches. This was the first time that these organs were elected by secret ballot.

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Of course the new Party bureaus must be given great help in order to enable them to master the art of leadership. The Party organs will fulfil this task more successfully to the extent that their functionaries spend more time in the localities teaching and instructing the secretaries and the members of the branch bureaus.

At the district and regional Party conferences now being held we are consolidating the results of the branch meetings and shall make big efforts to ensure that the work of the branches is raised to a higher level.

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Baby farming is another evil feature of the "American way of life".

explains the latest wave of confusion and alarm about alleged "aggressive designs" on the part of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, for the purpose of poisoning the international atmosphere.

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With the easy hand of Dulles the "new look" and its various aspects are being

not clear that only those who are here today and gone tomorrow, who have no faith in the morrow, for whom there is no morrow can, and do, act in this way.

It is perfectly understandable that as a result of this venturesome policy the contradictions and differences between the USA and their Atlantic Pact allies will grow since no country can agree that the question of taking part in a war, that is, a question of life or death for it, shall be decided by a handful of American politicians and not by the Government of the particular country. The reaction of other countries to the war hysteria raised in the USA testified to these serious differences. Speaking against the intention of the USA to decide the question of war or peace at its own discretion, Lester B. Pearson, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Canada, stated that Washington's fingers were itching on the atom bomb. Dulles' speeches have given rise to considerable alarm in Britain, France and other countries.

The intrigues of the aggressive American circles directed at fomenting enmity between the peoples and at preparing a new war, will impel the peace-loving peoples to greater vigilance, to redoubled efforts for further relaxation of the international tension and for a peaceful settlement of outstanding international issues.

Jan MAREK

# For Flowering of National Culture in France

(Continued from page 3)

## III.

In order to characterise the state of mind of the French intelligentsia it is enough to recall that on November 9, 1953, practically all the teachers, from rural teachers to university professors, went on strike. They fought for their economic demands, in defence of freedom, for the construction of schools. On December 15, 1953, students in Paris look action against the "stifling of the University", organised demonstrations and rebuffed the violent police raids; the next day demonstrations and strikes took place in the universities in the provinces. On February 26 the teaching staff of the universities, lycées, technical and vocational schools throughout the country held an impressive strike which was distinguished for its unity and was joined by masses of students. On March 31, in conditions of complete unity, another teachers' strike took place on an unprecedented scale throughout the country.

As might be expected some of the right-wing Socialist leaders want to divert this mass democratic and national protest movement into different channels, pursuing one-sided aims of an electoral nature. Trying to undermine the spirit of this mass movement and to disorganise it they are spreading the idea that "nothing can be done" before the 1956 general election and that there is no hope of real success within the next two years. Moreover, the Social-Democratic leadership is trying to restrict the protest movement, for example, in the sphere of education, to purely economic demands, concealing the close relations between the political struggle in the sphere of education with the fight for national independence.

Objectively, this concealed campaign in favour of a wait-and-see policy plays into the hands of the bourgeois circles of the

pro-American orientation who are striving might and main to inculcate in the youth and especially young intellectuals the false idea of the irremediable decline of France.

Clerical organisations such as the Richelieu Centre in the Sorbonne, and the Catholic Student Houses in the provinces are trying to hold back as much as possible the struggle of the intelligentsia against the "European Defence Community" and "United Europe"; MRP leaders such as Robert Schuman speak more and more frequently in the same manner.

However, reconciliation to the idea of the alleged decline of France, the passivity and the wait-and-see "until 1956" policy are giving way increasingly to a clear understanding of the possibility of achieving immediate results by a mass struggle in defence of science and culture, against depriving education and spiritual life of their national character. The most famous literary award in France, the Goncourt Prize, has in 1954 been accorded to a novel permeated with this "anti-European" tendency.

The resolute struggle waged by the teachers and other representatives of the intelligentsia for freedom has yielded a certain success in upholding democratic rights. The management of the Atomic Energy Commission were forced to withdraw the police questionnaires circulated among their staff.

The efforts of the Government to get the Bonn and Paris treaties ratified have encountered a most powerful and well-organised protest movement on the part of the intelligentsia, particularly teachers, scientists, engineers and students.

The struggle of university teachers against ratification of these treaties and the participation of former Ministers for National Education in this struggle are attracting widespread attention. Take the following example: On January 27 over a thousand students gathered in the Hall of Scientific Societies in Paris. After the dis-

cussion the voting for or against ratification showed that 11 had voted for, there were 2 abstentions, while all the others voted against.

The idea that the more art retains its national and original character the wider its genuinely international influence is taking a firmer grip among artists and literary workers. Relying on the broad public, the growing support of which they must win, patriotic film workers are fighting against the state tax system and the deliberate attempts to hold back credits, against the Government censorship which is stifling production of French films in the interests of US rivals. Their slogan is: Not less than 100 really French films every year; they are denouncing the so-called United Europe Film Industry in Munich, saying that the best condition for international competition in cinematography is the existence of strong, independent national film industries.

The resolute fight of the film workers and of the broad public in defence of the French film industry has resulted in a sharp fall in the number of American films screened in France. While Hollywood swallows from 60 to 80 per cent of the entire income derived from film production in most of the West European countries, in France the figure was about 36 per cent last year.

## IV.

The peace movement, which is a mass non-party amalgamation, attracts big sections of the intellectuals who, while participating in the general peace movement, have their own methods, their own professional forms which enable them widely to influence these sections.

Communists are the genuine, fully consistent champions of the nation, of the great traditions of French culture, literature and art, philosophy and science. They fight courageously and relentlessly for rallying all the patriotic forces in the country, for national sovereignty, for the interests of the people.

The influence of Marxism-Leninism is growing. During the past year the national "study days" conducted by the Communist intellectuals, the university discussion held in memory of Karl Marx and the philosophical and scientific works of a number of Communists met with wide response.

Realism is winning wider recognition among artists, sculptors and critics, notwithstanding some shortcomings in the works of Communist artists who, by their courageous struggle against the official ideology of decadence, ushered in this new great trend. The "return to reality" is now the most widespread subject in the art columns even of the bourgeois journals and newspapers.

Even bourgeois literary critics have had to acknowledge the enormous significance of the recently published second volume of Aragon's "L'Homme Communiste".

With growing confidence and hope the intelligentsia look to the Communists who propose a new, national and democratic way of life, a new and true social philosophy, a fuller interpretation of science, new principles in painting and in all spheres of art.

The example of Communist writers encouraged an ever-increasing number of non-party writers or those belonging to other parties to come into the fight for freedom, against war, for genuine humanism and against decadent ideology. The sale of books arranged each year by the National Committee of Writers, true to the spirit of the Resistance Movement, is an outstanding event in the literary life of Paris.

Honest intellectuals among the Catholics are profoundly concerned about the combined action taken by the big international capitalists and the Vatican in the guise of a "European" crusade. The Episcopacy adopts sanctions against some Catholic circles which, in its judgement, insufficiently support the idea of relinquishing national independence. It is quite obvious that the

\* In this book, consisting of a collection of essays, the author gives a clear picture of a number of French Communists.

Catholic church in France is experiencing a crisis. The arbitrary abolition by the hierarchy of the system of worker-priests in the factories, who were entrusted by the higher dignitaries of the church with the mission of attracting the proletariat to their side, is a vivid manifestation of this crisis. These dignitaries feared that in many cases the worker-priests themselves would go over to the side of the proletariat.

Communist and other progressive periodicals specially designed for the intelligentsia enjoy the support of public opinion. The number of these periodicals is increasing. Four such national periodicals are published, for example, for medical workers. There are now about ten magazines catering for the French intelligentsia, which are either entirely Marxist publications or are published with the participation of Marxists. Their monthly sale amounts to 30,000 copies.

"Lettres françaises", a weekly, plays a worthy role in the spiritual life of the country. Greater interest is displayed in the achievements of public education and in the development of science and the arts in the USSR. Even non-proletarian associations, such as "the association of parents of lycée and college students", publish in their official bulletins articles correctly reflecting the advance of public education in the Soviet Union.

The recent brilliant success of Soviet musicians, singers and actors, who won the merited and unanimous admiration of Parisians, greatly helped the French people to get to know the real face of the Soviet Union.

The achievements of Soviet medicine are no less widely studied and highly appraised. Not long ago the Academy of Medicine Sciences heard an address by Doctor Lamaze on the results of the Soviet method of painless birth used by him in the Pierre Rouques clinic in Paris. Despite poorer conditions as compared with those in which the Soviet doctors work, in 75 per cent of the cases he achieved complete success. It has already been decided that from now on this Soviet method will become the official method in all Paris hospitals. Public lectures on Pavlov's teaching are read in Paris, Lyons, Marseilles, Toulouse

and other cities. The old materialistic traditions of French medicine are again beginning to revive and develop under the influence of the achievements of Soviet medicine.

The authorities have launched a shameful campaign against progressive doctors. On the pretext of "violation of professional rules", for example, the case of the doctors in Montluçon who applied the method of painless birth was submitted to the Council of the Medical Corporation.

Medical workers, however, are rising in struggle for their rights. They are upholding their right to life and creative labour, fighting against the Government that refuses treatment to the sick and to the doctors the chance of earning their livelihood by imposing on them an onerous tax burden.

The idea of joint struggle by the intelligentsia in defence of the cultural heritage of France is spreading more and more.

The Communists among the intelligentsia must still shed not a few shortcomings in their work. In most fields, whether we speak about primary school teachers, doctors or lawyers, the Communists must do a great deal in order resolutely and consistently to steer a course for real mass work. They must combat any opportunist and capitulatory attitude in relation to work in the mass organisations, against any neglect and underestimation of this work!

We can confidently say that in working with the intelligentsia too there are real possibilities for carrying out the advice given by Maurice Thorez at the meeting of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party held in October 1953:

"The people are waiting for the Communists to put forward the correct solution to the great problems of the present time and particularly for their help in translating these solutions into life.

"The Communists will justify this confidence, this hope, which impose on them new responsibilities."

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